ON PARAPHALAENOPSIS

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In 1963, I established the genus Paraphalaenopsis (in Orquidea 25: 212), to accommodate three attractive epiphytic orchids previously contained in Phalaenopsis Bl. These terete-leaved plants have been utilized to a considerable extent in critical multigeneric hybridization. The serious orchid breeders who have in the past worked with these Paraphalaenopsis by and large agree with my decision to segregate the trio of species from Phalaenopsis Bl. Several of my learned orchidological colleagues have as well recognized the new genus.

In a recent paper, however, Dr. R. E. Holttum (in Orch. Rev. 74: 290), has described a new natural hybrid orchid, purportedly of wild origin and imported from Indonesia, as a Phalaenopsis. This is puzzling, since in previous publications, he has indicated his dissatisfaction with the retention of these terete-leaved species, with all of their floral aberrancies, in that genus.

I do not consider this orchid to be correctly placed in Phalaenopsis of Blume, as it is currently delimited, and propose, therefore, the following new status for it:

PARAPHALAENOPSIS x THORNTONII (Holttum) A. D. Hawkes, comb. nov.

(Phalaenopsis x Thorntonii Holttum in Orch. Rev. 74: 291. 1966.)

The type specimen reposes in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, at Kew. It was obtained from a commercial orchidist in Florida, who has assured Holttum that the plant was imported from Indonesian Borneo (= Kalimantan).

Holttum indicates that this is a natural hybrid between what most of us term Paraphalaenopsis Denevei (J. J. Sm.) A. D. Hawkes and P. serpentilingua (J. J. Sm.) A. D. Hawkes, and, further, comments that "I note that Mrs. Gracia Lewis has given the grex name Sunny to the offspring of the artificial hybrid P. denevei X P. serpentilingua. This does not invalidate the present name x thorntonii, which is based on a particular type specimen, and, as noted above, is probably not a first cross between the two postulated parent species."